

09-Aug-2005 17:30

From-PILLSBURY WINTHROP

703-905-2500

T-666 P.009/013 F-580

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Client/Matter: 071469-0305782

IN THE DRAWING(S):

The attached sheet(s) of drawing(s) includes changes to Figure 1. Specifically, Figure 1 has been amended so that both the focus ring 60 and the centering ring 100 are illustrated. A replacement sheet containing these changes is appended to this Amendment. This sheet replaces the original sheet showing Figure 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet.

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REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 16 are amended hereby. No claims are canceled or added. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-16 will remain pending.

In the Office Action dated May 9, 2005, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as failing to show each and every feature of the invention as specified in the claims. Further to a conversation with the Examiner on February 3, 2005, the Applicant understands that the Examiner believes that at least one of the drawings should show both the focus ring 60 and the centering ring 100. Accordingly, the Applicant has amended Fig. 1 to illustrate both features. With the presentation of amended Fig. 1, the Applicant believes that the Examiner's objection to the drawings has been addressed. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1, 7-10, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ludviksson et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0125360). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection and, therefore, respectfully traverses same.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2-6 and 11-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, and 11 so that claims 3-14 now depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended claim 2. Since the Examiner indicated that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is now in condition for allowance. Since claims 3-14 now depend (or formerly depended) from claim 2, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-14 are now allowable by virtue of their dependency from allowable claim 2.

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With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and amended claims 15 and 16 are patentable over Ludviksson et al., because Ludviksson et al. does not describe each and every feature of the claims. Accordingly, it cannot be relied upon as an anticipatory reference against claims 1, 15, and 16.

In contrast to the invention as recited by claims 1, 15, and 16, Ludviksson et al. describes monitoring erosion of system components by optical emission. Specifically, Ludviksson et al. describes, in one embodiment, a ring 61 incorporating emitters 28a-28d, which are capable of emitting light when exposed to a plasma. (Ludviksson et al. at paragraph [0059].) Other embodiments include a focus ring 60 containing emitter 28, shield 14 containing emitter 32, and electrode plate 24 containing emitter 34. (Ludviksson et al. at paragraph [0050].) As these consumable parts are exposed to the plasma and erode, the emitters are exposed and emit light, which may be detected, indicating that the part needs to be replaced. (Ludviksson et al. at paragraphs [0050] – [0056].)

Turning specifically to claim 1, Ludviksson et al. does not describe, among other things, a centering ring and a focus ring with wear indicators, where the focus ring is configured to be centered about the substrate by coupling the focus ring to the centering ring. Since Ludviksson et al. does not describe each and every feature recited by claim 1, it cannot be relied upon to anticipate that claim. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Turning now to claims 15 and 16, Ludviksson et al. does not describe, among other things, a focus ring or a method for replacing a focus ring with one or more holes in the upper or lower surfaces and extending to a depth from the upper or lower surfaces where the depth is a fraction of the distance between the upper surface and the lower surface. In contrast, as discussed above, Ludviksson et al. describes consumable parts with emitters therein that are

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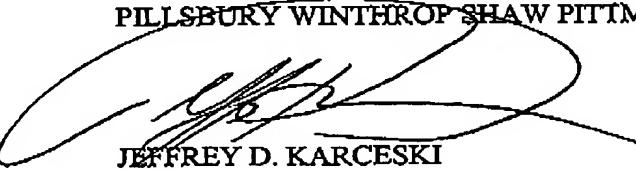
selected to emit light when exposed to a plasma. As a result, Ludviksson et al. does not describe each and every feature recited by claims 15 and 16 and, therefore, cannot be relied upon to anticipate claims 15 and 16. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), withdraw the rejection, and pass this application to issuance.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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